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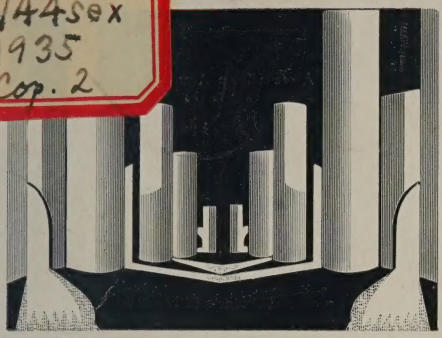

The Experimental Theatre of Vassar College

SUMMER SESSION in the THEATRE

for Men and Women

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Acting
Direction
Playwriting
Design
Public Performances

June 24 -- August 3
1935

POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

Directors

HALLIE FLANAGAN LESTER E. LANG

A scene from *American Plan*, presented in the 1933-'34 season.

THE EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE OF VASSAR COLLEGE

Summer Session

The Summer Session is designed for men and women who are actively interested in writing, acting and producing for the modern theatre.

The work of the summer theatre will center on three public productions; two new plays and one revival. Since this schedule calls for a production every two weeks, the greater part of the time of each student, at least four hours daily, will be spent in rehearsal and production. In addition to the work on productions, certain preliminary courses giving a foundation of theatre work will be required of beginning students. Advanced courses will be open only to students who have completed work equivalent to the beginning courses.

No academic credit will be given, but the directors will grant a statement of accomplishment for advanced work satisfactorily completed.

PLAN OF STUDY

Courses Required in the Beginning Group

Principles of Direction and Production Problems of Production
Fundamentals of Acting Voice Technique Stage Design
The Dance in Relation to Stage Movement

Courses Required in the Advanced Group

Problems of Production Advanced Direction *or*
Advanced Stage Design (*or both*) Voice Technique
The Dance in Relation to Stage Movement

Courses Required in the Beginning Playwriting Group

Beginning Playwriting Problems of Production Principles of Direction and Production *or* Stage Design *or* Fundamentals of Acting

Courses Required in the Advanced Playwriting Group

Advanced Playwriting Problems of Production

DESCRIPTION OF COURSES

Direction and Production

Problems of Production

Analysis and discussion of current productions in which the summer session is engaged.

1 hour weekly

Principles of Direction and Production

Development of a play through various stages of planning, designing, casting, rehearsal, to production. Theories of types of production: realism, impressionism, expressionism, constructivism, with examples from contemporary American and foreign stages.

2 hours weekly

Advanced Direction

Individual directorial problems. Open only to advanced students or directors.

1 hour weekly

Acting

Fundamentals of Acting

Study and interpretation of a role. Improvisations. Group acting. Mass movement.

2 hours weekly

Voice Technique

Practice in voice and diction; work on individual roles in current productions.

2 hours weekly

The Dance in Relation to Stage Movement

Practice in dance exercises and composition.

2 hours weekly

Stage Design, Stage Management and Lighting

Stage Design

Terminology of the stage, principles of stage management, theory and practice of stage design and lighting.

2 hours weekly

Advanced Stage Design

Special problems of stage design. Open only to advanced students or designers.

4 hours weekly for three weeks

Stage Lighting

Theory of light and color. Construction and use of the stage switchboard and lighting instruments. Work on specific lighting problems in laboratory and production. Open only to advanced students.

2 hours weekly for three weeks

Mask Making

Laboratory course in the making of masks for the theatre. Open to all students.

4 hours weekly for three weeks

Playwriting

Students specializing in Playwriting are advised to do only a limited amount of work on production. In case a student wishes to devote the entire time of the course to playwriting, special arrangements will be made to excuse the student from all other work except the course in *Problems of Production.*

Manuscripts already completed by applicants for the advanced playwriting course, if submitted by May 1, will be considered for production in the summer theatre.

Beginning Playwriting

Study and practice in writing for the modern stage. Limited to 5 members.

1 hour weekly, and individual conferences

Advanced Playwriting

Work on individual manuscripts, new or in progress. Open only to students who have had preliminary courses or actual experience in playwriting. Limited to 5 members.

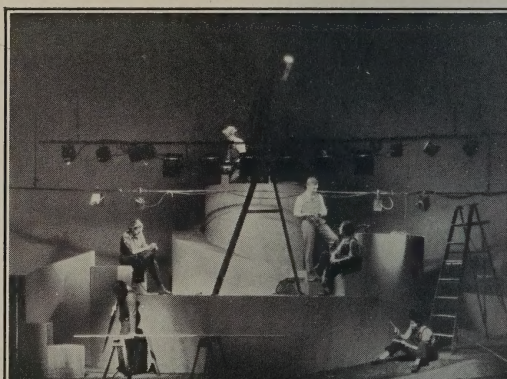
1 hour weekly, and individual conferences

Special Study

Special Problems in Direction and Production

Theatre direction and design in relation to individual theatre problems of the members of the group. Attendance at a certain number of rehearsals of the summer theatre's productions. Open only to members of the Vassar College Summer Institute of Euthenics, and to residents of Poughkeepsie. Not open to regular members of the summer session. Limited to 15 members. *Special fee, $20.*

2 hours weekly



Stage crew setting up lighting equipment for the production *Now I Know Love.*

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Experimental Theatre of Vassar College, is composed of three academic courses; two in dramatic production, and one in playwriting. This group, supplemented by a regular acting company of men, has in the ten years since its founding produced forty-four plays, thirty-two of which were premieres. Twenty-four of these plays were written by members of the theatre's playwriting group. Twenty original plays have been published. Some of them have been translated into other languages; many have been produced elsewhere in America and abroad.

ADMISSION AND EXPENSES

The Summer Session of the theatre is open to men and women, of college age or over, who are interested in preparing for, or who are engaged in, some field of theatre work or study.

The enrollment for the session will be limited. All applications for admission will be acted upon by the directors by May 10th. Inquiries and applications should be addressed to the Experimental Theatre of Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York.

The fees for the complete course in the Summer Session in the Theatre, (June 24th-August 3rd), *payable June 24, 1935*, at the office of the Comptroller, are as follows:

Tuition - - - - - - - -	$105.00
Board and room - - - - - - -	90.00

When the application for admission is accepted, a registration fee of $15.00 must be paid. This will be credited toward the total fee of $195.00 and will not be refunded in case of withdrawal. The tuition fee cannot be returned in case of withdrawal before the end of the session but an adjustment of the charge for board and room will be made.

A limited number of scholarships and part scholarships are available to people with special aptitude for theatre work.

Various railroad companies have made special concessions allowing one and one-third fare for a round trip to Poughkeepsie. Information will be sent on request.

RESIDENCE AND COLLEGE FACILITIES

Members of the summer session will be accommodated in Josselyn House on the college campus.

All the facilities of the Vassar College Library, together with those of the special libraries of drama and art, will be available to members of the summer session.

The college grounds include over nine hundred acres of farm and woodland, excellent for walking. A nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, and a seventy-five foot swimming pool in Kenyon Hall are available. Lake Minnewaska and Lake Mohonk, the Catskills and the Berkshires are within easy motoring distance.

Golf Course

Josselyn House

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A scene from *Can You Hear Their Voices?*, a play which, since its production by the Experimental Theatre in 1931, has been translated into several languages and produced here and abroad.

Fear, by A. Afinogenov. The laboratory scene in which Kimbaev, a Cossack, accuses the director of the Institute of Physiological Stimuli, of having plotted against the State.

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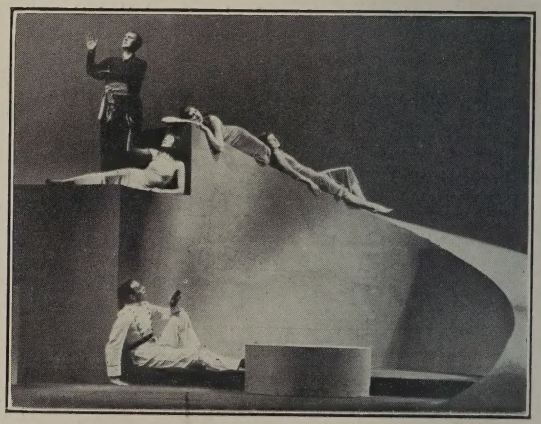

A scene from the recent production of Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*.